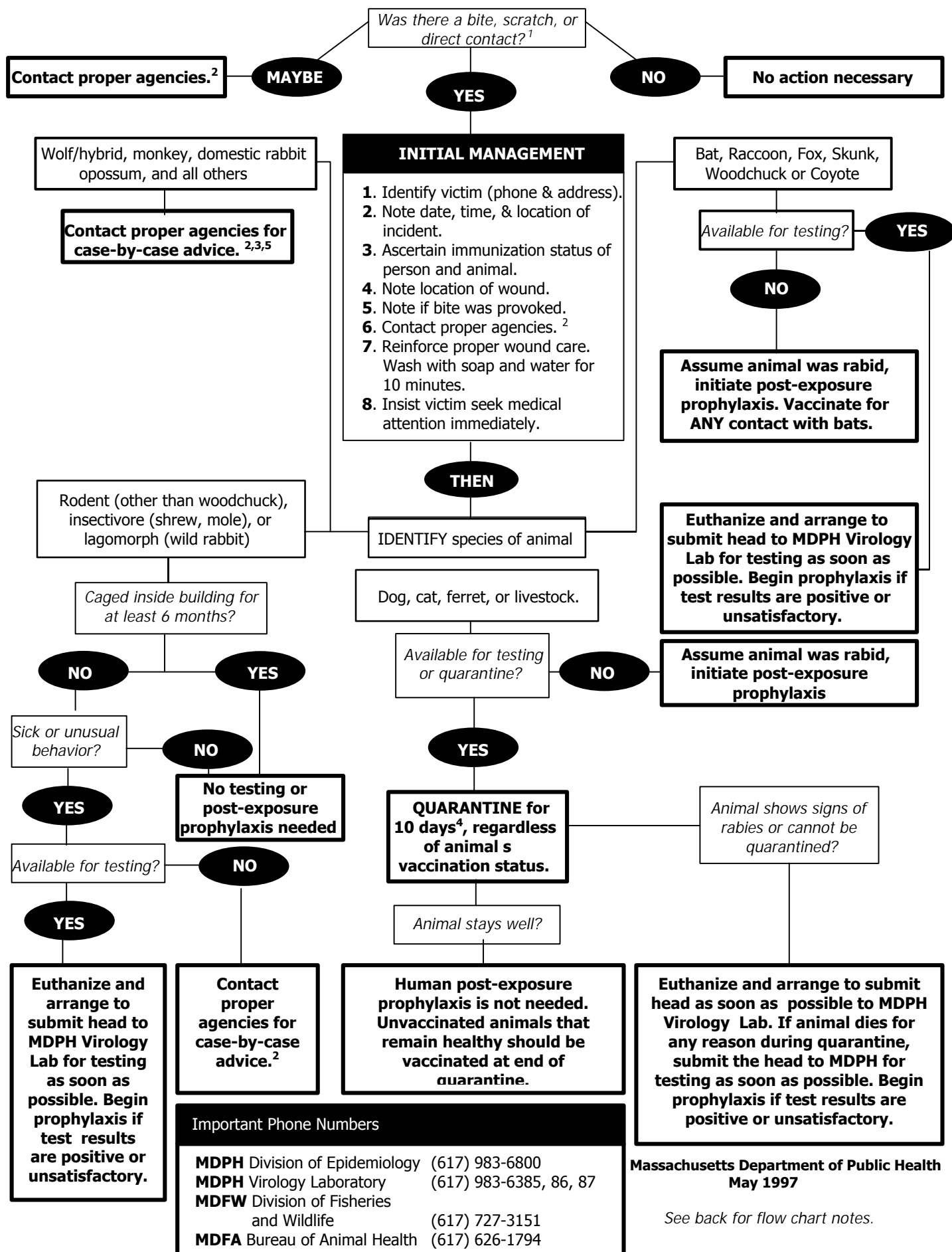


# Management of Human Exposure to Suspect Rabid Animals



## **RABIES FLOW CHART NOTES**

1. Defined as a bite, scratch, or direct contact where there is contamination of a scratch, abrasion, mucous membrane, or open wound (one that has been bleeding in the past 24 hours) with potentially infectious material such as saliva or central nervous system tissue.
2. Contact the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH), Division of Epidemiology and Immunization for advice on human exposure. Domestic animal exposure should be reported to the local animal control official or the Massachusetts Department of Food and Agriculture (MDFA), Bureau of Animal Health. Questions about wild animal exposures and ferret exposures should be addressed to the Massachusetts Department of Fisheries and Wildlife (MDFW).
3. Wolf/hybrids are considered unvaccinated despite vaccination history.
4. Type of quarantine will be determined by the local animal inspector. Questions about all domestic animal quarantines **except ferrets** should be addressed to the Bureau of Animal Health. Questions about ferret quarantines should be addressed to the MDFW.
5. Wild rabbits are at low risk for rabies, but rabbits caged outdoors are at greater risk. Bites by wild rabbits rarely warrant prophylaxis. However, a rabbit caged outdoors that bites a human should be tested for rabies.

## **IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

MDPH, Division of Epidemiology and Immunization: (617) 983-6800  
MDPH, Virology Laboratory: (617) 983-6385, -6386, -6387  
MDFW, Division of Fisheries and Wildlife: (617) 727-3151  
MDFA, Bureau of Animal Health: (617) 626-1794